

LOCAL I-S NEWS

for department store workers

4, NO. 7

264

NOVEMBER 15, 1952

Members Vote To Build Defense Fund As President Warns Of Coming 'Showdown'



Members stand to register their vote in favor of the immediate building of a Defense Fund. The proposal passed with overwhelming favor after President Kovenetsky told of Macy's anti-Union pressures.

"Merchants of Misery": A New Series Exposing Attacks on Rights of Workers

The last issue of the Local I-S News threw the spotlight on what proved to be one of the most shocking, scandalous and brutal stories ever to come out of the largest store in the world.

The spotlight came into focus on the stories of Rose Keenan and Morris Lucenti. These two people had three major things in common: They both worked for Macy's; they both suffered injury on the job; they both were the object of an all-out attack by Macy's in an attempt to deprive them of the Workmen's Compensation Benefits to which they are entitled by

cal I-S Compensation lawyer. We asked him just one question—"Is there a recognizable Macy behavior pattern when it comes to compensation cases?"

Mr. DiFede's answer was blunt. He said, "Macy's, through its insurance company, challenges every claim that we submit to the Compensation Board. If it were up to them, nobody, or hardly a soul, would get a cent as a result of on-the-job injuries or disabilities sustained as a result of their job. Why? Because Macy's thereby saves a little money on their insurance premium."

The lawyer then added, "Not enough people know their rights under the law. They come to the Union and then to me, but they come reluctantly. They come, but the first question in their minds is, 'Can the company fire me because I file a claim?' Once they are assured that filing a claim is their right and that Macy's cannot touch them for exercising that right, they are prepared to go ahead."

One Example

Mr. DiFede told us that his files are bulging with cases of members of Local I-S. We intend, in a coming series of articles to dig into those files—to get at the truth and to expose the heartlessness of a management that piously calls on its workers for cooperation while doing all it can to make life as miserable as possible for the injured

or disabled—the people who need help and cooperation the most! The outline of one case history will indicate the charge we are set to prove in the coming articles.

Mr. "X", a long service Macy employee, was a diabetic patient who was completely capable of performing his assigned duties.

One day, while at work, Mr. "X" stubbed his toe. Because of his diabetic condition, complications set in which resulted in the amputation of part of his foot. Through Local I-S, Mr. "X" consulted attorney DiFede and filed a claim for Workmen's Compensation.

At the hearings, Macy's lawyers strenuously argued against Mr. "X" receiving any payment for the time he had lost or the medical, surgical and hospital bills he had incurred!

Thanks only to Mr. DiFede's skill and familiarity with management tactics, Mr. "X" was awarded more than \$6,000 in cash, plus payment of his medical bills! Though we are out to help every worker win every cent he is entitled to, and though we are certainly concerned with the amount of the award and extent of the victory, we are even more concerned with the miserable contempt shown for the rights and needs of people by Macy's and its policy makers.

Watch these pages for the coming series on: Macy's, Merchants of Misery.

Hits Macy Refusal to Pay Hike As Arbiter Ordered; Plans Fight For Proper Payment

In a grim speech heavy with warning of Macy-inspired difficulties which lie ahead, Local I-S President Sam Kovenetsky called on the entire membership to "stick together against our common enemy — let's show management the kind of unity that will convince them that we are prepared to take them on and win!" He also accused management of engineering situations designed to force a showdown with the Union in an effort to "force us to do business with them on their terms."

1-S Wins Back Job In "Plain Talk" Fight

Macy's discharge of Robert McKay for use of "abusive language" back-fired when Arbitrator Maurice Trotta ordered him reinstated to his job in White Plains.

McKay admitted that he had made a few uncomplimentary remarks, not to, but about the executive who had "needled" him beyond endurance with remarks about "too much noise, too many mistakes and sloppy writing on inventory sheets."

Supporting the Union's contention that Macy's executives, right up to top rank, are also guilty of using improper language, the arbitrator observed that, "There is some evidence that improper language is used by supervisors and employees in the store. . . . And further that . . . There might have been some reason for Mr. McKay to feel that he was being 'needled.' This conclusion is supported by my examination of the inventory sheets in which the handwriting seems clear and no worse than average."

In ordering the Macy firing reversed and McKay put back on his job following a 30 day suspension Mr. Trotta commented in his opinion that, "It is admitted that he (McKay) is a good worker and in recognition of his services recently received a promotion."

Branch Store Administrator Pat Favoino who, along with Vice President George Gurian, pressed the case to its satisfactory conclusion said: "We refuse to accept a phony double standard. We could not and would not sit by and let Macy's fire a worker for doing no more than their executives do. Our files have many grievances against executives for the use of such language toward our members, yet we never heard of the company firing one of them."

Arbitration Award

President Kovenetsky reported on the heavy flow of registered mail that has traveled between the Union and Macy's top management. He declared, "and with it all, Macy's has flatly refused to honor the Union's demand that they state, in writing, what they intend to do about Professor Stein's award of six and seven-eighths cents per hour."

"We want that money paid," said the Local's leader. "But we don't want it paid into Macy's account. We want it added to the wage structure, as the arbitrator directed. We don't want Macy's to give you that money today and be able to take it away from you tomorrow!"

The President interrupted himself to ask the members whether they agreed with him and a tremendous roar of approval shook the huge Manhattan Center auditorium. (Continued on page 2)

Election Committee

In conformity with Article X, Section 1 of the Local I-S Constitution and By-Laws the membership, at the meeting held on October 28, voted on a slate of eleven candidates for the Union's Elections and Objections Committee.

Elected were: George Schick, of the Selling Division, Chairman; Catherine Arndt, Receiving; Mary Askew, Manufacturing; Ceil Alperin, Selling; Ann Bowen, Flatbush; Alfred Chiarella, Jamaica; Marion Jurisson, Selling; Mildred Kniska, Office; Margaret Lyons, Parkchester; Thomas Mellella, White Plains; James Roche, Packing. Clarence Lanman, MTE, was designated as an alternate.

This Committee will be responsible for the circulating of nominating petitions in November and December and for the conduct of the election of Union officers in January.

Petitions will be available at the Union office from November 15 to December 14th.

Coincidence

It was pure chance that brought these stories into the same issue. Both had been going on for some time, but they took place in separated parts of the store and were reported at different times by different people. The differences in the cases were insignificant when the similarities were noted. It didn't look like an accident that on two occasions Macy's legal staff appeared no effort to discredit the company's responsibilities for their disabilities and to do everything possible to keep them from receiving compensation, either for the time lost from work or for the large sums paid on doctors and medicines.

Suspicion Confirmed

With this thought in mind, we turned to Mr. Joseph DiFede, Lo-

BRANCH STORE NEWS

PARKCHESTER

Here's a wish for a quick recovery to some of our nicest girls who are out ill. Mrs. Dolan (P10), Miss Hay (P10), Miss Merritt (P8) and Miss Anderson (P5) . . . P5 sure is a busy department with all the weddings going on. Miss Schaller's daughter has recently been married and in the near future the sons of both Mrs. Menninger and Mrs. Zugorsky and Mrs. Gale's daughter will take the plunge . . . So much excitement—oh my—Our heartfelt congratulations to Mrs. Staib and her hubby on their 25th Wedding Anniversary. May they have many more! . . . Welcome back from the Army to a swell fellow. Howard Almeyer (P1) was missed by all, and we are all glad to have you back . . . Welcome to Andy Fellicia, our ex-administrator and our new watch repair man. Best of luck Andy—hope you will be happy with us . . . Parkchester will be well represented in the Thanksgiving Day parade and we trust that a happy time will be had by all . . . Miss Buzzone of P8 promoted to P9 Sporting Goods. Congratulations, Inez . . . Rita Soprano of P8 took over the Red Flower, congratulations to you too, Rita . . . Want to thank all those who are helping to keep the news flowing and express the hope that even more people will get into the habit of keeping your reporter posted. Thanks.



Margaret Lyons

FLATBUSH

As always, Flatbush showed up in full force at the General Membership Meeting despite the nasty weather . . . Backing the President's report, a unanimous vote put the Defense Fund to a strong start . . . Welcome back from a hitch in the army, Bertram Orlando and John Benninoti. Both fellows will be back at their old jobs . . . Joe Raimondi is back with us as a S.O. . . . Nice to see you again. Abe Shames elected Shop Steward for the FBR group . . . Appliances reduces its staff as Tony Vacarro is now in the Men's Dept. We hope its not for long, Tony . . . Down at the Christmas operation again are Peggy Weber, Letisha Chuckiss, Sylvia Tallah, Sy Babenco and yours truly . . . Bill Tyrell of the Packing Dept., left us for a better job, good luck Bill . . . Pat Anastasia replaces him in packing. Boner of the month! A certain salesclerk prefers to frank ten dollar bills instead of the customary "taken" saleschecks . . . For more information dial Ext. 276 . . . Jay Hirsch out ill, get well soon Jay . . . If you like to bowl, see Hal Brink in Sporting Goods Dept. A program is being planned for a good time for all.



Mel Melnyk

WHITE PLAINS

The White Plains store is humming—when news got around that Bob McKay had been re-instated smiles were the order of the day. We should be proud of this victory, and it should make us want to back our Union even more solidly than ever. It's nice to know that when the chips are down there is someone to go to bat for you. Bob was the intended victim, or scapegoat, for something that most people have done on occasion. The Union blasted the company's case by proving that top executives were guilty of the same offense and had never been punished. It's really nice knowing that Bob will soon be back! . . . Every once in a while we seem to be beset by a rash of gripes. But remember that gripes can't be given very much attention unless they are in the form of a grievance. THEN they will be QUICKLY processed. When in doubt, see your Shop Steward who will either help directly, or tell you what your next steps should be . . . By the time you read this you will have attended the White Plains Welfare Dance and had a grand and glorious time. Didn't know we had so much talent in our midst, did you? . . . Congratulations to all those boys and girls who received promotions and flowers for the holiday season . . . Very sorry to report that Mrs. Miller (Service Desk) is out ill . . . Also Miss Liptac (WH). A speedy recovery to both of you and to any others who may be out ill, but who are unreported . . . Best wishes for a very pleasant Thanksgiving holiday to all.

JAMAICA

We were all very sorry to hear that Vi Nordenberg's (J5) mother had died. Our deepest sympathy, Vi . . . Also sorry to learn that Lorepa Bramiel (J2) is out sick. Our best wishes for a speedy and complete recovery . . . While we are regretting—we hated to see Vi Reynolds leave us after five years of service. Good luck in whatever you do, Vi . . . Three of our friends were transferred from the Soda Fountain to Cashier Packer jobs. They are Edna Erasmii, Eleanor Botwick and Ben Galderisi. Hope it's a pleasant and profitable change! . . . Felix Nields (J1) happily promoted to the Receiving Department . . . Lots of comment (and all of it favorable) about the building of a Union Defense Fund. Personal experience has already taught most people that management is not prepared to let us live in peace. They also know that there's nothing we have that the company wouldn't love to take away. But if they hope to catch us off guard, or looking the other way, they are going to be sadly disappointed. Our guard is already up! Sure we're going to feel the pinch of paying extra dues—but look at it this way—If it helps us win a better contract without a fight, we're in clover. If in spite of it we have to strike, we'll thank our stars we have it! IT'S GOOD!!



Alfred Chiarella

President Warns of "Showdown" ...

(Continued from page 1)

torium. After receiving thunderous approbation for the Union's position the President continued, "We will try to get Macy's to agree, but if we have to go to court we will. We will do anything and everything except agree with Macy's!"

Defense Fund Approved

In support of the all-out program advanced by President Kovenetsky, the membership gave almost unanimous approval to the building of a Local 1-S Defense

Union Looks For Trouble; Finds Plenty!

Administrators of Local 1-S have begun a program of early morning patrols of the Herald Square and Branch Stores in search for executives working in violation of the contract.

The first tours resulted in a few offenders being caught red-handed and others quickly emptying their hands as word spread that the Union's representatives were making the rounds.

President Sam Kovenetsky urged that Shop Stewards and Executive Board members give their full support to the drive for full enforcement of the agreement and said, "We aim to make Macy's respect our contract, not only after store opening, but at all times. I am certain that if we have the help of all we will succeed."

Renovations At Union Provide Faster Service

Renovations at the Union office, which will help eliminate slow-moving lines at the front window, have now been completed.

In order to speed the paying of fees, checking of records and the getting of receipts, Local 1-S has installed two additional windows and has enlarged the interior office working space.

The changes were made after observing the set-up during two series of Divisional Meetings and in anticipation of thousands of workers coming to the Union office to vote in the January election of Local 1-S officers.

HEALTH PLAN NOTE

If you plan to take a leave of absence for more than 30 days or if you leave the store and wish to continue your Health Plan coverage on a direct payment basis YOU MUST see the Local 1-S Health Plan Consultant at the Union office within 30 days from the end of the month in which you leave the store. Protect yourself—protect your family—protect your benefits. Be sure to come to the Union office on time!

Fund. The recommendation had originated with the Shop Stewards at their all-day conference in September. It was later ratified by the Executive Board and referred to the October 23 membership meeting.

The Defense Fund is to be built by the paying of a monthly equivalent of dues directly to the Shop Stewards during the entire period of negotiations. It is to be used only in the event that the members vote to strike and actually do so. If negotiations are concluded without recourse to a strike, the entire fund is to be returned to the membership.

Collection of the Defense Fund will be made during the fourth week of each month, starting with November, and continuing for the duration.

"Such a fund," said President Kovenetsky, "is the best guarantee that we will command respect from Macy's when we sit down across the table from them in February. So long as they are convinced that we are prepared to fight they will hesitate. Without the backing of this fund they would feel free to

Macy Irked By 1-S Attack On Lawlessness

Divisional Superintendent McCarthy of the 6th Floor indignantly accused Local 1-S of trying to protect its members against Macy's violation of the law when the Union protested the scheduling of work for more hours than are allowed.

Shop Steward John Corbett was the first to charge Macy's with the unlawful act of scheduling the eight women of 913 department with more than one ten-hour day during the week of October 13-17.



Telzer

out the schedule."

Floor Committeemen Earl Fulford and Morris Telzer, next in line in the grievance procedure, took the problem to Mr. McCarthy, who first assailed the Union for its defense of the law and the working conditions it provides for.

McCarthy's attack faltered, failed and changed to an apology as he yielded to the Union's demand for pay for the eight, despite the fact that they couldn't work the added Thursday hours.

The Union's demand was based on the fact that the workers had accepted the proffered overtime in good faith, unmindful of the fact that they were becoming accomplices in breaking the law.

With the contract and the law ranged against them, Macy's had no choice but to agree, stating that, "a reasonable amount of notice of such change was not given . . . Employees whose schedules were so effected will be paid for scheduled time not worked . . ."

push us around and again refuse to even talk to us!"

Macy's Spending

Returning to the attack, the Local 1-S leader declared that, "even while Macy's has refused to offer us a single penny to help ease the problems created by rising prices, they were buying more space in New Jersey, in White Plains and in California. They re-modeled their Kansas City store and their store in San Francisco. They are planning on spending 20 million dollars in New Jersey alone."

"If they think we are going to buy them a crying towel they are mistaken. They've been trying for a long time, but they have never deceived us with their cries of impending bankruptcy. We can tell them that the end of 1952 will bring a new era. The whip is now in our hand and we will use it for the best interest of the workers—the people Macy's has persistently tried to ignore!"

From the Floor

As the President's report was concluded, with its sober estimate of battles ahead and its toughening recommendation for the building of the Defense Fund, hundreds of those present shouted out, "I move to accept the President's report." Other hundreds roared, "Second the motion."

Typical of those who stood up to speak was Robert McLean, of the Elevator Department. He said, "There is some grumbling in the store about paying double dues, but I believe that when the people fully understand it, they will approve it, as I do. It hits me hard, but I feel that it is to my advantage to help strengthen the Union. . . . To go further, I say, let us more vigorously protest every anti-Union act by management. Let us sign up the Monday-Thursday-Saturday onlies. Let us stick together and we will win!"

An Opponent

Main opposition to the building of Union strength came from one Vincent Gates, who was booted out of the hall after a guttersnipe attack on Local 1-S and President Kovenetsky. Gates was identified with the so-called "rank and file" group that joined with Macy's management in a series of attacks on Local 1-S in 1948 and 1949.

One member at Manhattan Center remarked that, "whenever Macy's is attacking the Union in an attempt to break our backs, you can count on finding Vincent Gates right up there helping them."

Attorney O'Donnell

In his first formal introduction to the Local 1-S members, who warmly received him in recognition of the outstanding job he had done during the recent arbitrations, attorney John O'Donnell said, "The whole Supreme Court, sitting across from Mr. Fischer couldn't convince him to sign a decent contract as well as your strength."

"Your aim is not to strike, but to secure the best possible contract. If Macy's thought you would not strike, you would get a lousy contract. It is entirely up to you and nobody but you!"

**FREE
LEGAL AID CLINIC
at the
UNION OFFICE
Every Wednesday
5 to 7 P.M.**

The Local 1-S leader declared that, "even while Macy's has refused to offer us a single penny to help ease the problems created by rising prices, they were buying more space in New Jersey, in White Plains and in California. They re-modeled their Kansas City store and their store in San Francisco. They are planning on spending 20 million dollars in New Jersey alone."

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Executive Board Suspends Member For Arrears; Backs Miners; Approves All Committee Reports

The Local 1-S Executive Board, at its regular October meeting, suspended one member, joined hands with the soft coal miners in their protest against the WSB's reduction of their negotiated wage increase, named a Committee to conduct the coming election of the Union's officers, heard and approved a series of Committee re-

Committee On Contract Nears Finish Of Job

The Contract Committee of Local 1-S, subcommittee of the Executive Board, has all but finished its work of drafting proposed revisions of the agreement, according to its Chairman, William Atkinson.

The Contract Committee, created in July 1951, was given the task of analysing the day-to-day application of the agreement, of determining which sections had led to disputes over interpretation, which clauses had failed to serve their anticipated functions and what had not been included that experience had proved to be necessary.

Open Hearings

In addition to an initial study of the document, the ten-member committee held open hearings, so that all members could make their thinking known to it. Suggestions received from the membership were carefully evaluated by the group and many have found their way into the draft document to be submitted to the Executive Board as a whole for approval before it is presented to management in February.

No Specific Demands

The Contract Committee was not empowered to include recommendations on such matters as the amount of the wage increase to be demanded or shorter hours to be sought. Such demands originate with the Executive Board and must be approved by the membership.

The Committee wound up its affairs, except for the submission of its findings to the Board, following a series of all-day meetings at the Union office. When the Board has accepted the draft agreement it will be turned over to a Negotiating Committee, selected from among the members of the Executive body, who will then have the job of trying to win management agreement to its provisions, with as few changes as possible.

Committee Members

On the Contract Committee, in addition to Chairman William Atkinson, are:

Ann Berman, Joe Cohen, Elvio Cotti, Hazel Horder, David Krakauer, Alphonso Ramsey, Morris Telzer and Max Wald.

A replacement will be named to fill the opening left by the resignation from the committee of Jack Steinman.

ports and endorsed the 1953 campaign of the March of Dimes.

Trial Committee

Clarence Lanman, Chairman of the Trial Committee reported that Mr. Frank O'Donnell (GK3) had been summoned to meet with the Trial Committee with regard to the nonpayment of his 1947 Strike Assessment and newspaper subscriptions dating back to 1948. O'Donnell failed to appear before the Committee and was tried in absentia. The Executive Board upheld the Committee's recommendation and ordered O'Donnell suspended until full payment is made to the Union.

Legislative

Legislative Committee Chairman Leonard Snyder, submitted a report with detailed recommenda-

tions which was approved by the Board. The report recommended that the following points be submitted to our lawmakers and to the City CIO for consideration: (1) Permanent registration—designed to increase the number of voters by facilitating the entire process. (2) Urge state and national laws limiting election expenditures and requiring fullest publicity—designed to eliminate loopholes which allow fortunes to be spent by office seekers. Also aims to help capable candidates of lesser means to be able to run for office without competing with heavily financed campaigns of big-business favorites.

Anti-Discrimination

Alphonso Ramsey of the Local's Anti-Discrimination Committee

presented a full report on the uncovering of insulting material in Macy's. The entire story was given to readers of the Local 1S NEWS on Page 1 in the issue of November 1.

Contract Committee

An interim progress report made by Chairman William Atkinson on behalf of the Contract Committee was approved by the Board. For details of this Committee's activities see story elsewhere on this page.

DA

DA Committee head Clarence Lanman reported that Union efforts had thus far failed to win from Macy's a straight 20% employee discount on all items including Major Appliances. The Committee will continue to meet and

seek new means of achieving its objectives.

Conduct Elections

The Board approved an eleven member Elections and Objections Committee to supervise the distribution of Local 1-S nominating petitions and the actual conduct of the election of Union officers. For names of Committee see story on Page 1.

Aid to Miners

President Sam Kovenetsky submitted to the Executive Board a resolution condemning the Wage Stabilization Board for cutting the \$1.90 wage increase won by the United Mine Workers to \$1.50 as an "anti-inflationary" measure. See detailed story elsewhere on this page.

President Reports

President Sam Kovenetsky bitterly castigated Macy's for their "deliberate distortion" of the contract and the "deliberate confusion they have sought to create" on the question of how the \$2.75 wage increase is to be applied.

"However," the President said, "Macy's tactic is going to boom-erang. The Union membership is drawing closer together day by day, because they see more and more clearly what the company is up to, and are determined to fight back and win."

March of Dimes

In response to an appeal from the March of Dimes for continued Local 1-S support, the Board voted to conduct its annual collection to help defray the cost of fighting polio and the cost of research aimed at discovering a way of preventing the dread disease.

Labor Israel

The Executive Board voted to send five Union members to the 29th annual convention of the National Committee for Labor Israel (Histadrut) as a means of strengthening further Local 1-S' ties with the world labor movement. The names of those designated will be announced.

Board Changes

New members welcomed to places on the Executive Board are: Margaret Graham, ASD; Madeline Hurkala, CT; Ruth Bernstein and Margaret Cupo, 4th Floor and Ransom Abbott of the Food Department.

The Board accepted, with regret, the resignations of Alma Radcliffe, 4th Floor and Anne Valenti, DA.

Home Nurse Care Free For 1-S'ers

Visiting nurse services, provided under the Local 1-S Health Plan, has frequently made the difference between skilled care or neglect during illness and convalescence.

One Union member used the service three days a week for the several months she was bedridden. Others have been speeded along the road to recovery with fewer assists from the free nursing aid.

The Health Plan says that, "You and your dependents are entitled to visiting nurse service from the visiting nurse agency in your community for as many visits as are required in connection with any illness or accident covered by Group Health. Your doctor can make the necessary arrangements."

Another outstanding service made possible by your Local 1-S!



Members of the Contract Committee, before putting finishing touches to their important job, asked the Administrators and officers to meet with them to hear the proposed changes they will recommend.

1-S Protests Wage Board Reduction Of Coal Miners' Negotiated Raise

Less than 48 hours after members of the United Mine Workers recently began leaving the soft coal pits in protest against the Wage Stabilization Board's reduction of their negotiated raise from \$1.90 to \$1.50 per day, the Local 1-S Executive Board voted unanimously to call on the Wage Board to reverse its action. The Board also sent a message of sympathy and support to the mine union's chief, John L. Lewis.

The full text of the Resolution and the telegrams follows:

"WHEREAS we members of the Executive Board of Local 1S believe firmly in the principle of free collective bargaining, and

"WHEREAS we are opposed to unjust restraints on wages while prices of such essentials as food, clothing and shelter rise without control, and

"WHEREAS it is our aim and purpose as a trade union to do all

we can through direct bargaining with the employer to improve the living conditions and standards of our members, and

"WHEREAS we share this aim in common with the rest of organized labor,

"THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we send a telegram to the Wage Stabilization Board as follows:

"In the name of Local 1-S, United Department Store Workers of America, CIO, we protest the Board's action in reducing the wage increase freely negotiated between the United Mine Workers of America and the soft coal operators. We urge the Board to immediately reconsider its action and restore to the workers the wage increase which is rightfully theirs and which is sorely needed in this period of spiraling costs. Respectfully,

"Sam Kovenetsky, President.

"AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this telegram be sent to United Mine Workers President John L. Lewis, along with the following message:

"We are in deep sympathy with the strong protests of your membership against the unjust and unwarranted action of the Wage Stabilization Board. We recognize this action as a blow against all unions and against the principle of free collective bargaining. We extend to you our best wishes and fraternal greetings in your strug-

gle for full restoration of your negotiated raise.

"Sam Kovenetsky, President
"For the Executive Board."

Resentment Mounts

As the days went by following the Wage Board's action, more and more unions throughout the country were voicing their protests. Resentment was expressed from some unions with cases already pending before the Wage Board and from some who, like Local 1-S, have contracts expiring in the near future and who fear that the precedent set by the Board in the case of the Mine Workers might be used against them.

Self-Defense

President Sam Kovenetsky said, "Defense of the miner's raise is also defense of our right to win a raise. We cannot sit back and let the miners fight alone unless we are prepared to fight single-handed when the same club is used against us. We cannot bear this lid on wages with prices running wild. We must look ahead to try to win whatever changes we can that will be to our advantage in February, when our contract expires."

Back to Work

The strength of the protests plus the solidarity shown by the miners led President Truman to intervene with a promise that the Board would re-examine its position.

As this issue of the Local 1-S NEWS goes to press the miners are back at work and the Board's final answer is pending.

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David Krakauer

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Macy's Trapped In Basement Law Break

While working at the Local 1-S campaign of organizing Saturday-onlies Basement Floor Committee Chairman Elvio (Lou) Cotti caught Macy's red handed in a flagrant violation of the law.



Cotti

Cotti reports that while looking at Time Cards for the names of new fractional workers who were hired as a result of the additional night opening, he noticed that their cards were marked "4:45-9:15 P.M." A quick check on the floor showed that none of the newly employed men and women were scheduled for the twenty minute relief that the law requires after four-and-a half hours of work.

Despite the fact that the Saturday-onlies are not yet officially represented by Local 1-S, Cotti filed a grievance protesting the company's breaking of the law. Management answered in two

ways—they immediately began scheduling the relief periods to which the workers are lawfully entitled, and they attempted to destroy the evidence of their previous unlawful acts by removing from the Time Cards any mention of scheduled hours.

Reporting the victory to the Union, Lou Cotti jubilantly said, "As a result of this single defense of their rights the Saturday-Onlies now know, better than ever, what belonging to Local 1-S means. We have been flooded for requests for application cards even faster than we could get them around the floor. The success of this drive means that from now on every staff worker will be a defender of the law and the Union contract, and that means greater strength than ever before in dealing with Macy's in negotiations or in their violations of either the law, the contract or both!"



Long delays on Eighth Floor cafeteria lines have produced much protest and even more indigestion. Additional units being opened have, from time to time, eased problem — but it has always returned.

1-S Scoop Diminishing Macy's "Star"

Proving the accuracy of the 1-S NEWS' sources of information, Macy's began publication of its "Star" as the company began to step up its anti-union propaganda campaign less than a week after it was predicted in these columns.

The first issue was generously studded with pictures of Macy's President and promises of "look for the worker who most efficiently chains himself to the company's 'voluntary' speed-up machine."

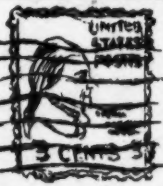
In the course of his report to the membership, President Kovenetsky said, "Let us keep in mind that Macy's is on the march—they are back to their old propaganda sheet in an effort to confuse the issues."

Commented one Union member who prefers to remain anonymous, "They wouldn't give us a raise so that we can live, but they offer prizes for killing ourselves. THAT is Macy's!"

We have nothing to add, except that there will probably be less more of the same. Watch it carefully, and know it for what it's worth.

TO THE EDITOR

NEW YORK
DEC 20
6:30 P.M.



SHOCKED

I was both shocked and outraged by the indecent attack made on our Union and our President, Sam Kovenetsky, at the membership meeting.

All of us who were working in the store back in 1948 and 1949 remember Vincent Gates very well. It was he, and a few others like him, who joined hands with management in a back-stabbing attempt to destroy our Union. Since Gates and his cronies could not attack the Union directly, because of the tremendous gains it had won, they resorted to name calling.

The membership gave that crowd their answer when they voted overwhelmingly in favor of Local 1-S and its leaders in an NLRB election.

The members again gave V. Gates the gate when they hissed and booed him out of Manhattan Center on October 28. It seems to me that the important thing is the timing of this attack. I don't think it was any accident that it again took place just as Macy's is getting tougher with us than ever before. I believe that V. Gates is again proving to be the assistant to management within our ranks.

We are nearing the time when we will elect our Union's leaders and will begin to negotiate a new contract. Constructive criticism, as our lawyer, John O'Donnell told us at the meeting, will strengthen us. That, plus solidarity, will assure us victory. But Mr. Gates, and his unfounded red-baiting, can only serve to weaken us to management's advantage. Let's buckle down for a hard but victorious fight in '53.

Fraternally,
Ann Berman, 97 Dept.

PLEASANT SURPRISE

My sincerest gratitude to Local 1-S for the thoughtfulness during my recent illness. The gift was a pleasant surprise.

Also for the prompt attention to my financial difficulty.

Very truly yours,
Peter Dymek, FSC

MOST GRATIFYING

Inasmuch as I learned about Dr. Lawrence Essenson through our paper, the Local 1-S NEWS, I deem it my duty to tell you of my most gratifying experience.

When I first went to Dr. Essenson, there seemed to be no relief for my physical ailment, despite previous medical care.

Within one month's time Dr. Essenson accomplished what other doctors had been unable to do. I am deeply grateful to Dr. Essenson for his help and I cannot praise his ability too highly.

I am grateful to the Union for having, through our paper, brought Dr. Essenson to my attention.

Sincerely yours,
Jeanette Nutt, 33 Dept.

DEEP APPRECIATION

I wish to express my deep appreciation for all the help and kindness during my illness. Had it not been for the Health Plan I don't know what we would have done. My illness struck so suddenly that we didn't know where to turn.

Please thank Miss Tepper for her kind guidance to my husband when he called for information.

Thank you and all Local 1-S for the gift and card. It is so gratifying to know one has friends and is thought of at a time when it is needed.

Most Sincerely,
Myrtle Enright, 42 Dept.

MOST HELPFUL

Permit me to take this opportunity to let you know how much I appreciate the Health Plan our Union has for its members. Since February, 1952, my husband had to enter the New York Hospital for surgery at three different times. Each operation meant hospital and medical expenses which our Health Plan helped me pay. This aid alleviated the financial worry. I wish to thank Local 1-S and Miss Tepper for their most helpful assistance.

Sincerely,
Jeanette Adis, 21MAG

MY GRATITUDE

I wish to express my gratitude to Local 1-S for the Health Plan which has meant more than I can say these last few months which my husband has had to spend in the hospital. My sincere thanks, too, to Miss Tepper and Miss Hammond, who were so kind.

I also wish to convey my deepest gratitude to my co-workers and their concern and thoughtfulness during my husband's long illness and my recent bereavement.

Very sincerely,
Florence Still, 19 Dept.

THRILLED

On September 23, 1952 I left Macy's employ and, on contacting the Blue Cross office have been told that the transfer to individual payment had to be handled through the Union office. Would you send me the necessary forms . . . Thanks a lot! I'd hate to lose that coverage.

I am also enclosing a check for \$4.50 to cover the bill which I discovered when cleaning out my desk drawers. I'm sorry not to have paid it sooner.

Of course, the raise which was won in arbitration thrilled me—though I'm sure we all wish it was more. And I want to compliment Local 1-S on the issue of the paper which presented the candidates and platforms of all four political parties in such an impartial way. That is truly democracy in action and I was proud of "my" Union.

Sincerely yours,
Eleanor Hawkins, NRS

SINCERE THANKS

Words can't express the gratitude I feel about the blood which was donated to me while I was seriously ill.

Thanks to our Union, Health Plan and co-workers for being so thoughtful and kind in my hour of need.

Most sincerely yours,
Millie Horowitz, 913

TAKE TIME, NOT TUMS, WHEN DELAYED BY CAFETERIA LINE

In response to a motion made at the last meeting of the Local 1-S Executive Board calling on the Union to investigate poor cafeteria service, President Sam Kovenetsky said:

"There have been many complaints and criticisms of Macy's handling of the cafeteria. Every one of them has been made known to the company. They know when they only have two units — or three units—in operation. They know when people are forced to spend twenty minutes to a half hour waiting on line.

"The company counts on enough workers being foolish enough to gulp down their lunch or supper in order to get back to work on time. Since Macy's has it within its power to open additional units and move the lines along faster, if they choose, I can make only one suggestion. I would simply advise any person delayed on the line to add the length of the delay to the lunch or supper hour and let management do the worrying. When enough people report back late, Macy's will have no time in improving the service by whatever steps may be needed."

PERSONALS

WANTED—3½ or 4 rooms Queens, Bronx or Manhattan. Reasonable rent. Urgent! Phone Ben Samberg, EX 2-1956.

WANTED—2½ or 3 room apartment for childless, middle age couple to \$75 per month. Phone UL 6-4353 after 7 P.M.

FOR SALE—Baby grand piano & bench, excellent condition. Phone KI 6-1019 after 6:30 P.M.

FOR SALE—Underwood standard typewriter in good condition. Also typewriter table. Reasonable. Phone LU 4-7389 after 6 P.M.

Personal ads for the Local 1-S NEWS must be received at the Union office by the 1st or 15th day of each month. Ads received on the 1st will appear in the issue dated the 15th. Those received on the 15th will appear in the issue dated the 1st of the following month. This is offered as a service to members of Local 1-S and there is no charge for personal ads.

MEDICAL PLAN—For the name and address of the doctor, dentist or podiatrist nearest you CALL the Union Office — WA 4-4540 or Associated Physicians Medical Group—BU 8-4296 (Night or Day). Complete schedule of fees available upon request.
BLOOD BANK—If you need blood from the Blood Bank CALL Elizabeth Hammond at the Union Office—WA 4-4540.

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